

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGRE-00 HUD-01 LAB-04 HEW-04 TRSE-00
AID-05 COME-00 NAS-01 NSF-01 OPIC-03 FAA-00
ERDA-05 NSC-05 DODE-00 INR-07 /047 W
-----065492 260708Z /14
R 260555Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4267
USDOT WASHDC

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DEPT PLEASE PASS HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, LABOR,
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, USDAO, USFDA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: USIRJC
SUBJ: USIRJC MEETING IN NOVEMBER

1. DCM AND USIRJC OFFICER CALLED ON DEPUTY MINISTER
OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND FINANCE JALIL SHORAKA AUGU 24 TO
DISCUSS POSSIBLE AGENDA FOR NOVEMBER JOINT COMMISSION
MEETING.

2. DCM RESTATED EMBASSY'S DESIRE TO SEE GOI ESTABLISH
CENTRAL TRUST FUND, INDEPENDENT OF INDIVIDUAL MINISTRIES,
WHICH WOULD FINANCE FUTURE U.S. PROJECTS. DISCUSSION
THEN TURNED TO RECENT WASHINGTON MEETING OF ENERGY
COMMITTEE, BOTH AGREEING THAT FINAL CONCLUSION OF NUCLEAR
AGREEMENT AWAITS PASSAGE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY BILL NOW
BEFORE CONGRESS. BOTH EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT WE
ARE CLOSER TO AN AGREEMENT NOW THAN IN THE PAST
THOUGH SOME DETAILS MUST BE WORKED OUT.

3. DCM PRESENTED SHORAKA WITH A PAPER OUTLINING
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AMOUNTS STILL OWED TO USG IN CONJUNCTION WITH JOINT
COMMISSION PROJECTS AND LISTING AREAS OF POSSIBLE
COOPERATION IN THE FUTURE. HE REVIEWED ORALLY THE
DEBTS OUTSTANDING, SPECIFICALLY: A) \$390,149.75
DUE THE FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION BY MINISTRY
OF ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION; B) \$140,000 DEPOSIT
NECESSARY TO INITIATE THE ENVIORNMENTAL PROTECTION

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT PROJECT; AND C) \$2,503 OWED THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR FOR THE LAST MERSON CONSULTATIVE MISSION. ALSO EXPLAINED THAT DOL HELD \$6,376.36 NOT SPENT FROM THE MOBILE VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTER PROJECT AND, WITH THE CONCURRENCE OF THE GOI, WE WERE WILLING TO DEDUCT THE \$2,503 AND RETURN BALANCE OF \$3,873.78 TO THE GOI. SHORAKA PROMISED TO CONTACT THE APPROPRIATE MINISTRIES AND SEE WHAT COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED TO SETTLE THESE PROBLEMS.

4. DCM EXPLAINED THAT LIST OF POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS REPRESENTED EMBASSY'S THINKING ON GENERAL AREAS OF EXPANDED COOPERATION RATHER THAN SPECIFIC SUBJECTS FOR DISCUSSION. HE POINTED OUT TO SHORAKA THAT IT WAS TO SOME EXTENT BOTH IMPROPER AND IMPRACTICAL FOR THE USG TO DICTATE SUBJECTS FOR DISCUSSION SINCE IT IS THE USG'S DESIRE TO INITIATE PROJECTS THAT ARE GENUINELY BENEFICIAL AND USEFUL TO IRAN. THE GOI IN EXAMING THE SIXTH PLAN, ITS NEW ECONOMIC POLICY, ETC., SHOULD DETERMINE THE SPECIFIC ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED IN NOVEMBER. SHORAKA AGREED SAYING THAT HE WOULD CALL MEETINGS OF SPECIFIC COMMITTEES OF THE IRANIAN SIDE OF JOINT COMMISSION AND MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH APPROPRIATE EMBASSY OFFICIALS OVER THE NEXT FEW LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WEEKS TO DISCUSS MORE DETAILED AGENDA ITEMS AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE NOVEMBER MEETING. SHORAKA AND DCM AGREED TO MEET IN ABOUT THREE WEEKS TO QUOTE PUT ON PAPER UNQUOTE SPECIFIC DETAILS OF WHAT WILL BE DISCUSSED AND POSSIBLY AGREED TO IN WASHINGTON IN NOVEMBER.

5. SHORAKA MADE THE POINT THAT, IF THE COMMISSION IS TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN THE FUTURE, IT MUST ACTIVELY INVOLVE THE PRIVATE SECTORS OF BOTH COUNTRIES. PARTICULARLY IN THE AREAS OF INDUSTRY AND HOUSING, SHORAKA POINTED OUT, THE GOI ITSELF CAN ACCOMPLISH VERY LITTLE WITHOUT THE COOPERATION OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR. WE POINTED OUT THAT ANSARY HAD EXPRESSED TO AMBASSADOR HIS DESIRE THAT US-IRAN BUSINESS COUNCIL MEET AGAIN IN NOVEMBER AND WE RESTATED AMBASSADOR'S VIEW THAT, UNLESS HIGH RANKING GOI OFFICIALS AND SENIOR IRANIAN BUSINESSMEN ATTENDED BUSINESS COUNCIL MEETING PREPARED TO DISCUSS SPECIFIC SUBSTANTIVE AGENDA ITEMS, LITTLE INTEREST FOR MEETING COULD BE GENERATED ON US SIDE. SHORAKA ACKNOWLEDGED POOR SHOWING OF GOI DURING MAY MEETING AND SAID HE WOULD DISCUSS ISSUE WITH MINISTER ANSARY.

6. AS REQUESTED EARLIER WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S
THOUGHTS ON WHAT SUBJECTS/ITEMS MIGHT USEFULLY BE
PUT ON NOVEMBER AGENDA.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING AGENDA, PLANNING MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 26-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TEHRAN07642
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770308-1102
Format: TEL
From: TEHRAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770816/aaaaankq.tel
Line Count: 121
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 66e8df51-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1462311
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: USIRJC MEETING IN NOVEMBER
TAGS: EFIN, ECON, US, IR, USIRJC
To: STATE COM
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/66e8df51-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009